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FOREIGN DEPARTMENT



IN CHARGE OF

LAVINIA L. DOCK, R.N.

THE INTERNATIONAL MEETING IN CALIFORNIA

It is none too soon to begin plans for the gathering of nursing societies in California in 1915, and already the members of the International Council in foreign countries are laying plans for the coming triennial. Preliminary figures as to cost and as to itineraries have been given out. The great expense will inevitably prevent many European nurses from coming. Four hundred dollars at the very least will be needed, and it would be safer to have five hundred.

Arrangements for the International delegations' trip will be made by Mr. Frank, of the Frank Tourist Co., who is brother to Miss Frank of the Henry Street Settlement. He says we should have at least our own cars, perhaps our own train, or trains, in which way we travel less expensively and more pleasantly. The California nurses have appointed an Arrangements Committee whose chairman is Dr. (and nurse) Helen P. Criswell, of Los Gatos, and Dr. Criswell hopes there may be a Nurses' Building. Under the general regulations of the Fair Grounds, however, we could not lodge or give meals to nurses in such a building. It could only serve for gatherings. As our meetings will have very large audiences, it will probably be best to hold the general assemblies in halls, as we could not build on a large enough scale to fit our international gatherings.

Then there is the question of a nursing exhibit.

In Cologne the nursing exhibit filled a large public school; in London, a large part of a big public hall. Will our American Congress grow equally? These were the questions brought before the general committees of the affiliated societies of American nurses at their national meetings in June; but which we cannot report this month, as they took place too late for our printer to wait for them.

Our international exhibits have been chiefly of the country, where our meetings were, because the cost of transportation makes it too formidable a problem for nurses, with their slender funds, to pack and place exhibits in a foreign land. And as this will be true in greater degree

for this country, it is probable that our exhibit must be largely of American nursing. But with our Red Cross work, public health nursing, Teachers' College work and all our splendid state registration activities, to say nothing of training school, preliminary and post-graduate courses, and the regular nursing fields and lines of organization work, Army and Navy and rural nursing, social service and training for the same—we have materials for a very good exhibit.

ITEMS

VEXATIOUS as our own American quack and pretended nursing machines are, it is even more distressing to see the official neglect and disregard in England that is exhibited by the highest British officers of government, toward English nurses, that splendid body of women upon whose faithful services vast bodies of English citizens are absolutely dependent. The most useful, the most indispensable class of skilled ministrants,—it is simply revolting to see a man like Asquith, with his known contempt for women, receive them with the veneer of outward politeness, and to hear him say that hospital management is “a domestic matter”! As the *British Journal of Nursing* aptly points out, there are legal protections for domestic servants which probationers are not allowed to enjoy, and if hospital training is a domestic matter the legal safeguards for servants against injustice should be demanded by pupil nurses.

THE National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland has just had a most successful conference in Dublin. A beautiful Nursing Pageant was given, with tableau representing the great women of historic fame.